[*English*]

Air Linking of Sholapur

1779. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sholapur city in Maharashtra being one of the biggest industrial centres is not well connected with other parts of the country by direct air services by the Indian Airlines or Vayudoot;

(b) if so, whether at present air passengers have either to avail facility from Pune or Bombay/Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the steps taken to have direct Indian Airlines or Vayudoot services from this city; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to make available infrastructure facilities for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sholapur is not presently linked by Vayudoot service. The air field at Sholapur is not suitable for the operations of Indian Airlines.

(b) Air services of Indian Airlines are available from Pune, Bombay and Hyderabad.

(c) Because of the losses being sustained by it, Vayudoot is not in a position to air ling Sholapur at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Night Landing Facilities at Visakhapatnam Airport

1780. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger traffic to and from Visakhapatnam has been steadily increasing; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to extend the run way as well as to provide night landing facilities to enable the Airbus operational to and from Visakhapatnam airport to meet the passenger traffic demand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Visakhapatnam airport has been taken over by the Navy from the National Airports Authority (NAA) in March, 1986. The National Airports Authority is maintaining only the civil enclave at Visakhapatnam. The Navy has plans for the modernisation of the airport.

Development of Vishakhapatnam Railway Station

1781. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Visakhapatnam as a Model Station:

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor and the amount spent thereon so far:

(c) the time bound programme to complete the development work; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to develop 'Duwada' station as an alternative station to Visakhapatnam in view of its congestion due to the steel plant New Townships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sanctioned cost of the work is Rs. 94.40 lakh out of which Rs. 42.00 lakh have been spent upto June 1991.

(c) The works are expected to be completed by 1993 subject to availability of funds.

(d) No, Sir.